

NOAA FY 1999 Budget Request Fact Sheet

Clean Water Initiative

State Partnerships to Reduce Polluted Runoff

NOAA requests \$12.0 million in FY 1999 to provide funding to coastal states with approved Coastal Zone Management (CZM) programs to fully develop and implement their Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Programs. This will significantly improve their ability to manage polluted runoff and reduce coastal water pollution. State Partnerships to Reduce Polluted Runoff is a key component of NOAA's FY 1999 Clean Water Initiative, with the other components being the Control of Harmful Algal Blooms and the Coastal Resource Coordination program. The Clean Water Initiative is a modest investment to help restore and protect our valuable coastal waters that support billions of dollars of economic activities every year through tourism, recreation and commercial fishing.

- In 1994, 15 states reported that shellfish harvesting restrictions were in effect for more than 6,052 square miles of estuarine and coastal waters during the 1992-1994 reporting period.



Coastal development generates nonpoint pollution

- Approximately 50% of the U.S. population lives in coastal areas, which represent only 11% of the Nation's land area. Population density along the coast is 341 people per square mile, 4 times the national average.

NOAA Budget	FY1999 Request \$M
National Ocean Service	
Ocean Resources Conservation & Assessment (Coastal Resource Coordination)	1.0
(Control of Harmful Algal Blooms)	9.0
Ocean & Coastal Management (Reduce Polluted Runoff)	<u>12.0</u>
Total Clean Water Initiative	22.0

The Problem of Coastal Nonpoint Pollution

From outbreaks of *Pfiesteria piscicida* in the coastal waters of the eastern seaboard to the effects of nutrient over-enrichment in the Gulf of Mexico to the loss of salmon fisheries in the Pacific northwest, coastal waters are under increasing pressure from polluted runoff. According to state water quality reports, only 57% of estuarine waters fully support activities such as swimming and fishing and there is further evidence of the extent of the problem:

- Urban runoff and storm sewers are the most widespread source of pollution in the Nation's surveyed estuarine waters. Agriculture is the leading source of impairment in the Nation's rivers, affecting 60% of the impaired river miles.
- During 1995, U.S. ocean, bay and Great Lakes beaches were closed, or advisories were issued against swimming, on more than 3,522 occasions.

Responding to the Problem

NOAA and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have completed their review of the extent to which the States have the tools needed to solve nonpoint source problems. The reviews reflect the fact that there is still progress to be made in developing state capabilities to solve polluted runoff problems, and here is much work to be done to ensure successful implementation. NOAA will use the \$12 million requested under the Clean Water Initiative to assist coastal states in successfully completing development and begin implementation of their Coastal Nonpoint Programs. These funds will provide coastal states with the resources they need to make inroads in the reduction of coastal nonpoint pollution.



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Completing Coastal Nonpoint Program Development

By FY 1999, 29 CZM states will have approved Coastal Nonpoint Programs, though certain portions of these programs need further development. In addition, three states that are new to the Coastal Zone Management program (Texas, Georgia, Ohio) need resources to fully develop approvable Coastal Nonpoint Programs. NOAA is requesting \$6 million for Coastal Nonpoint Program grants to enable all states to fully develop Coastal Nonpoint Programs that provide a consistent framework from which to administer effective management measures.

Implementing Successful Coastal Nonpoint Programs

NOAA is requesting \$6 million for CZM Act Section 309 Enhancement grants to enable states to implement their Coastal Nonpoint Programs. Funds would be used to improve management of lands within coastal watersheds, including activities such as pesticide and nutrient management, correcting failing or poorly designed septic systems, and improving stormwater management. These grants will accelerate the implementation of on-the-ground management measures and leverage other state and local resources working to control the flow of polluted runoff into coastal waters. This funding will complement the resources EPA and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) are providing to their partners, the state water quality and agriculture agencies, thereby providing a comprehensive program that relies on the combined strength of all state resource management agencies. Without the requested financial resources for state CZM programs, they will be unable to participate in the efforts necessary to control coastal nonpoint pollution.

Why NOAA?

There isn't a smoking gun to explain the environmental problems that cause outbreaks of *Pfiesteria* and other impacts of polluted runoff on coastal waters — in effect, we are all part of the problem. Recognizing this fundamental aspect of nonpoint source pollution, Congress enacted the Coastal Nonpoint Program of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990.



The Coastal Nonpoint Program establishes a technology-based approach for dealing with polluted runoff. It generally consists of using techniques that have been proven successful in managing sources of polluted runoff before they impact coastal waters. These measures include such techniques as erosion control, nutrient management, stormwater management, and protection of sensitive areas. The measures are detailed in guidance that addresses a broad spectrum of nonpoint pollution sources, including agriculture, forest harvesting activities, urban runoff, marinas, impacts associated with the construction and maintenance of dams and channels, and other alterations of natural systems, thereby controlling the most significant sources of land runoff.

NOAA administers the Coastal Nonpoint Program in partnership with EPA and states with approved Coastal Zone Management CZM programs. NOAA provides funding, technical assistance, and evaluation to improve state capabilities to manage polluted runoff and reduce coastal water pollution. Working with other Federal partners, NOAA is committed to providing states with the technical tools and resources they need to implement measures that have a reasonable likelihood of solving our coastal water quality problems.

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